

They are everybody's children, and nobody's children. They are the forgotten children in the Texas foster care and residential care system. Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian—they all need the love of a mother, the nurturing of a family, and the support of their community. Some of them find homes with caring foster parents or in treatment centers with experienced and caring providers. And some do not.

This legislation allows us to keep our children safe with:

New national standards for private and public residential programs:

Prohibit programs from physically, mentally, or sexually abusing children in their care;

Prohibit programs from denying children essential water, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care—whether as a form of punishment or for any other reason;

Require that programs only physically restrain children if it is necessary for their safety or the safety of others, and to do so in a way that is consistent with existing Federal law on the use of restraints;

Require programs to provide children with reasonable access to a telephone and inform children of their right to use the phone;

Require programs to train staff in understanding what constitutes child abuse and neglect and how to report it; and

Require programs to have plans in place to provide emergency medical care.

Prevent deceptive marketing by residential programs for teens:

Require programs to disclose to parents the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of all current staff members;

Require programs to notify parents of substantiated reports of child abuse or violations of health and safety laws; and

Require programs to include a link or Web address for the Web site of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which will carry information on residential programs.

Hold teen residential programs accountable for violating the law:

Require States to inform the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of reports of child abuse and neglect at covered programs and require HHS to conduct investigations of such programs to determine if a violation of the national standards has occurred; and

Give HHS the authority to assess civil penalties of up to \$50,000 against programs for every violation of the law.

Ask States to step in to protect teens in residential programs: Three years after enactment, the legislation would provide certain Federal grant money to States only if they develop their own licensing standards (that are at least as strong as national standards) for public and private residential programs for teens and implement a monitoring and enforcement system, including conducting unannounced site inspections of all programs at least once every 2 years. The Department of Health and Human Services would continue to inspect programs where a child fatality has occurred or where a pattern of violations has emerged.

This legislation seeks to protect the unprotected—our children—from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Many of these children are not safe, and their futures are uncertain. The groups serving children and adolescents with mental health or substance use conditions

need better regulation. The youth boot camps and other “alternative placement facilities” should be forced to provide greater transparency as to the policies and practices of their programs.

This legislation is a welcomed and needed response to numerous studies documenting the ineffectiveness of these programs and, in several instances, the tragic deaths as a result of child abuse and neglect as reported by the GAO in October 2007. Too many families struggle mightily in nearly every State to find placements, when appropriate, for their children that will address their complex mental health needs.

These facilities flourish, in part, because parents lack the necessary information about the operation and practices of these programs. The promise of help cannot be allowed to obscure the fact that these kinds of programs are not science-based and have not been forthcoming about the incidence of neglect or abuse.

This addresses the challenges facing many families. It seeks relief from these risks by (1) establishing standards for these programs that are consistent with current child protection laws; (2) ensuring that personnel are qualified; (3) shifting these programs to be family-centered, as well as culturally and developmentally appropriate; (4) creating mechanisms for the monitoring and enforcement of these goals; (5) calling for greater transparency and accessibility to the compliance of these standards; and (6) providing grants to States for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and for the treatment of children's mental health or substance use conditions.

Additionally, the annual report to Congress is an effective tool in ensuring that these critical issues emerge from the shadows and see the light of day. I share the vision and commitment of Chairman MILLER and the Education and Labor Committee in protecting our youth from such predators.

I urge my colleagues to vote for our children, vote for our families, and vote for H.R. 6358.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6358.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6052, SAVING ENERGY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-734) on the

resolution (H. Res. 1304) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6052) to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: motion to suspend with respect to H.R. 6358; passage of H.R. 3195; and motion to instruct on H.R. 4040.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6358, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6358.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 318, nays 103, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 459]

YEAS—318

Abercrombie	Calvert	Diaz-Balart, L.
Ackerman	Capito	Diaz-Balart, M.
Alexander	Capps	Dicks
Allen	Capuano	Dingell
Altmire	Cardoza	Doggett
Andrews	Carnahan	Donnelly
Arcuri	Carney	Doyle
Baca	Carson	Dreier
Bachus	Castle	Edwards (MD)
Baird	Castor	Edwards (TX)
Baldwin	Cazayoux	Ehlers
Barrow	Chandler	Ellison
Bartlett (MD)	Childers	Ellsworth
Bean	Clarke	Emanuel
Becerra	Clay	Emerson
Berkley	Cleaver	Engel
Berman	Clyburn	English (PA)
Berry	Cohen	Eshoo
Biggert	Conaway	Etheridge
Bilirakis	Conyers	Fallin
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Farr
Bishop (NY)	Costa	Fattah
Blumenauer	Costello	Ferguson
Boren	Courtney	Filner
Boswell	Cramer	Fortenberry
Boucher	Crowley	Foster
Boustany	Cuellar	Frank (MA)
Boyd (FL)	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Boyda (KS)	Cummings	Galleghy
Brady (PA)	Davis (AL)	Gerlach
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Giffords
Brown (SC)	Davis (IL)	Gillibrand
Brown, Corrine	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez
Brown-Waite,	Davis, Tom	Gordon
Ginny	DeFazio	Graves
Buchanan	DeGette	Green, Al
Burgess	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Butterfield	DeLauro	Grijalva
Buyer	Dent	Gutierrez